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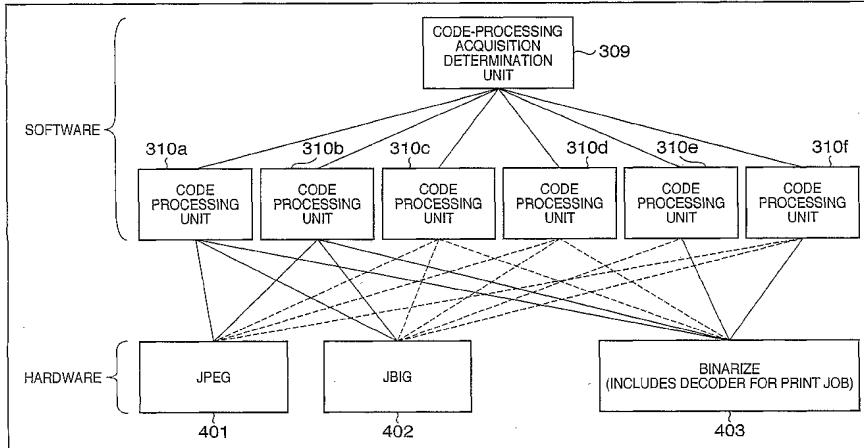
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*[Continued on next page]*

(54) Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS, METHOD AND PROGRAM



(57) Abstract: Disclosed is an image processing apparatus having a large number of image processing functions, in which resources necessary for code processing units can be suppressed while a large-scale decline in performance is prevented. The apparatus includes a plurality of code processing unit (310) for executing coding and decoding of image data, and a plurality of request-source task units (301 to 308) (print function, scanner function and FAX transceive function). The request-source task units request any ones of the plurality of code converters to perform a code conversion of image data. The number of request-source task units is greater than the number of code converters and a degree of priority has been set for each one. A code-processing acquisition determination unit (309) always assigns the plurality of code converting units to processing requests from request-source task units (301 to 304) having a high priority and, if there is an idle code converting unit among the plurality of code converting units, assigns the code converting unit to a processing request from request-source task unit (305 to 308) having a low priority.

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